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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ARETHA FRANKLIN CONCERTS AT EIU

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University has announced that tickets are now available to the general public for the 1997 Family Weekend performances of Aretha Franklin.

She will perform one show at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17, and another at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, in Lantz Gym. Reserved seat tickets are \$20 each and are currently available through the University Union box office during the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. or by calling (217) 581-7458.

For nearly 40 years, Aretha Franklin has been an icon of contemporary pop music, known around the world as the "Queen of Soul." With her extraordinary range and gospel-inspired phrasing, Franklin exploded onto the music scene in the late 1960s becoming the country's leading female vocalist and one of the first female performers to inject the rhythms and intensity of black gospel music into mainstream pop.

In 1966, she made her first recordings for Atlantic Records and a legend was born. Hits such as "Respect," "Baby, I Love You," "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," and "Chain of Fools," helped make that era become known as the "golden age of soul."

By the mid-70's, Aretha Franklin had six gold albums, 14 gold singles, and eight Grammy Awards. In 1980 she realized her long-standing ambition to make movies with a knockout performance in The Blues Brothers. Then, in 1987, she became the first female performer to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She began the '90s with a Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement.